

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 AID-20 CG-00 COA-02 FMC-04 RSR-01 /094 W

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R 112242Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4852

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT ELAB

SUBJ: SEAMEN STRIKE SETTLED AS OTHER LABOR UNEASE

PERSISTS

REF: SANTIAGO 3021

1. SUMMARY. JULY 11 PRESS REPORTS SETTLEMENT AND RETURN TO WORK OF STRIKE INVOLVING CREWS AND OFFICERS CHILE'S 26 FLAG VESSELS. TRANSPORT UNIONS CALDRON SIMMERING WITH SHORT STRIKE VALPARAISO BUS DRIVERS AND ADDITIONAL THREATS ISSUED BY LAN-CHILE PILOTS, SANTIAGO BUS DRIVERS AND NATIONAL PORT EMPLOYEES FEDERATION (FED NACIONAL DE EMPLEADOS PORTUARIOS DE CHILE). SOME CHUQUICAMATA MINE EMPLOYEES STILL ON STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO STRIKING MARITIME UNIONS SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH GOC LATE HOURS JULY 10, ENDING ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN STOPPAGE WHICH INVOLVED CHILE'S 26 VESSEL MERCHANT FLEET. GOC PROMISED PROMPT PAYMENT OF SEAMEN'S FUTURE MEDICAL BILLS. SEAMEN CLAIMED PRIVATE DOCTORS WERE REFUSING TREATMENT BECAUSE OF PAST DELAYS IN GOC PAYMENT OF BILLS.

3. ALTHOUGH THIS STRIKE SETTLED, GENERAL TRANSPORT FIELD MAY PROVIDE GOC WITH SOME FUTURE STRIKE HEADACHES. FED OF PORT EMPLOYEES HAS ISSUED ULTIMATUM THAT UNLESS THEY

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RECEIVE GOC RESPONSE TO THEIR LIST OF ECONOMIC DEMANDS BY

JULY 13, THEY WILL CALL NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF THEIR MEMBERS.
HEATED MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS OF THIS FED EVENING
JULY 8 EXPELLED UP OFFICERS (4 OUT OF 14 ON COUNCIL) "IN PERPETUITY"
FOR OPPOSING DEMANDS MADE BY MAJORITY OF MEMBERSHIP.

4. VALPARAISO DRIVERS OF GOC-OPERATED MUNICIPAL BUSES
(ETCE LINES) STRUCK FOR SIX HOURS JULY 10, TO PRESSURE ACTION
ON THEIR ECONOMIC DEMANDS. LEADERS PROMISE MORE OF SAME
IF SOME RELIEF NOT OFFERED BY GOC.

5. SANTIAGO DRIVERS OF PRIVATELY OWNED BUSES HAVE THREATENED
STRIKE BEGINNING JULY 17 OF GOC FAILS TO HONOR AGREEMENT
REACHED LAST MAY 29 AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF STRIKE (STGO 2315).
UNION LEADERS CLAIM GOVT HAS REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH COMMIT-
MENTS OF THIS AGREEMENT OR MEET WITH UNION LEADERS
TO DISCUSS MATTER.

6. BOTH SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO TAXI DRIVERS HAVE RECENTLY
HELD LARGE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBERSHIP TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE
STRIKE TO RELIEVE SPARE PARTS AND LOW FARE PROBLEMS.
ACCORDING EMB SOURCES, LEADERS IN BOTH MEETINGS ISSUED
STRONG ATTACKS AGAINST NEW SUBSEC PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
JAIME FAIVOVICH FOR HIS REFUSAL DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND FOR
HIS "IMMORAL CAMPAIGN TO SLANDER TAXI DRIVERS." (THESE
LEADERS PROBABLY REFERRING TO FLOOD OF SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED
IN PAST WEEK OVER UP RADIO STATIONS, WHICH URGE PUBLIC TO PAY
ONLY LEGALLY POSTED CEILING FARES AND REPORT DRIVER VIOLATIONS
OF THESE CEILINGS TO POLICE OR MINPUB WKS AND TRANSPORT.)
BOTH MEETINGS URGED ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL STRIKE.

7. ON JULY 3 NATIONAL TRUCK OWNERS UNION (SIDUCAM),
LED BY LEON VILARIN, KEY LEADER OF LAST OCTOBER'S GREMIALISTA
STOPPAGE, UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED A NATIONAL STRIKE BUT SET
NO DATE FOR ACTION.

8. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE MERCURIO REPORTED JULY 11 THAT
LAN-CHILE PILOTS HAD ANNOUNCED STRIKE FOR JULY 13, IF THEY RECEIVE
NO GOC RESPONSE TO BARGAINING DEMANDS TENDERED LAST APRIL 23.

9. REPORTS FROM UNION LEADERS AND PRESS HINTS INDICATE THAT
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THE TENIENTE STRIKE ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY SETTLED (STGO 2911) IS STILL
TAKING ITS TOLL. ESTIMATES OF FROM 1000 TO 1500 CHUQUICAMATA
MINE EMPLOYEES (EMPLEADOS) ARE REPORTEDLY ON STRIKE, PROTESTING
DISMISSAL OF 70 SHORT SERVICE EMPLOYEES. UNION CONCEDES
MANAGEMENT NORMALLY HAS FREE REIGN IN DISMISSAL OF PROBA-
TIONARY EMPLOYEES (UNDER SIX MONTHS OF SERVICE), BUT THAT
THESE 70 WERE ALL STRIKERS IN SYMPATHY WITH EL TENIENTE
ISSUE.

10. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FEW INDICATIONS THAT A NATIONAL STRIKE IN ANY OF THE TRANSPORT SECTORS IS IMMINENT, OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO EXPLOIT, ORGANIZE, AND DIRECT ANY LABOR GRIEVANCE INTO POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT OF THE GOC. GENUINE DISSATISFACTION IS DEVELOPING IN TRANSPORT SECTORS BUT OPINION IS WIDESPREAD AMONG VEHICLE OWNERS AND OWNER-DRIVERS, THAT NEXT GENERAL STRIKE WILL PROVIDE TH PRETEXT FOR GOC AND WORKER SEIZURE OF THEIR VEHICLES. THE RECENT WAVE OF WORKER SEIZURES OF MEDIUM-SIZE ENTERPRISES HAS DONE LITTLE TO CALM THESE FEARS.

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